

YOUNG FINE GAEL

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A New Deal for Young People

PRE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023





Foreword

Dear Minister,

As President of Young Fine Gael, it is my sincere honour to present to you our 2023 Pre-Budget Submission, A New Deal For Young People, setting out ideas and suggestions for how the Government can tackle the cost-of-living crisis and grow the economy in a sustainable and responsible fashion.

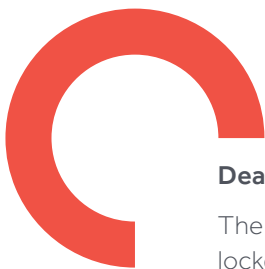
Our Pre-Budget Submission contains a plethora of revenue-raising measures which we believe ought to be considered in order to action some of the expenditure measures we are proposing. Our policy proposals intend to improve conditions for young people and society at large across a range of areas, from housing to healthcare and from education to our rural future.

We look forward to discussing these with you in more detail as we meet with you, and always welcome your feedback and reflections.

Budget 2023 will be one of the most important political moments in the lifetime of this coalition, and with a narrow path available to meander a possible recession, we believe the Government must be prepared to take bold steps in order to safeguard our shared future.

Art O'Mahony

President of Young Fine Gael, September 2022



Dear Minister,

The last two years have, in particular, been very difficult for young people. Prolonged lockdowns have resulted in many social problems including issues around mental health. Furthermore, disruptions in the supply chain, among other things, have resulted in a dramatic increase in the cost of various goods and services.

As Art has alluded to, our Pre Budget Submissions contains measures aimed at tackling issues young people face. It is vital that Budget 2023 tackles these issues head on.

One of the major areas of concern young people face is housing. It is vital the Government takes all steps it can to increase supply and ensure people have a place they call home. Its also important that the Government balances much needed spending priorities with revenue saving measures. Not only are these measures needed for our future but also to stop the tide of populism in Ireland.

Kenneth Henry

Young Fine Gael Director of Policy, September 2022

Revenue-Raising Measures

- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a third income tax band for those earning over €130,000 of 45%, in line with the UK tax band.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a 25% Energy Profits Levy (i.e. a windfall tax) for twelve months on energy companies.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a Vacant Property Tax.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase VAT on sunbed services from 23% to 40%.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase Gambling Wagers Tax from 1% to 10%.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase VAT for hotels from 9% to 12.5%.
- YFG calls on the Government to remove tax credits on a tapered basis on individual incomes above €100,000.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase Employers PRSI by 2.2% on portion of salaries above €130,000
- YFG calls on the Government to extend the Banking Levy.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase Excise Duty on a packet of cigarettes by 30c.
- YFG calls on the Government to levy Excise Duty on vaping and e-cigarette products.
- YFG calls on the Government to disqualify data centre P&M from capital allowances.
- YFG calls on the Government to reduce funding to the NGO sector by 10%.
- YFG calls on the Government to amalgamate the HSE and the Department of Health into one functioning unit, as suggested by numerous former senior officials.
- YFG calls on the Government to limit the number of special advisers for ministers to three.



Economy, Finance and Taxation : : : : : :

- YFG calls on the Government to reduce the standard rate of VAT from 23% to 21%
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a middle-income tax tier of 40% for earnings between €50,000 and €130,000 per annum.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase income tax bands and credits in line with inflation.
- YFG calls on the Government to reduce the interest rate on the late payment of tax to 3% across all tax heads to aid business cash flow. This rate would be in line with the 3.5% rate of interest applied in the UK on the late payment of tax.
- YFG calls on the Government to review the commercial rates regime, engaging all stakeholders with the objective of establishing a replacement regime that is fit for purpose in this digital age.
- YFG calls on the Government to ringfence the surplus revenue accruing from corporation tax receipts for capital projects or non-recurring expenditure in order to protect the Exchequer from non-prudent commitments.
- YFG calls on the government to reduce Capital Gains Tax on venture capital.
- YFG calls on the government to reduce Capital Gains Tax to 31% and commit to reducing it to 28% by 2028.
- YFG calls on the government to increase the Single Person Child Carer Tax Credit by €300 from €1,650 to €1,950.

Privatisation : : : : : :

- YFG calls on the Government to privatise the commercial aspects of RTÉ, such as 2FM, and relocate the national broadcaster from Donnybrook, rezoning and selling the land.
- YFG calls on the Government to privatise Horse Racing Ireland.
- YFG calls on the Government to privatise all remaining elements of Ireland's banking sector over the lifetime of this Government.
- YFG calls on the Government to privatise 75% of Dublin Airport, Shannon Airport and Cork Airport.

Enterprise, Trade and Employment

- YFG calls on the Government to increase the national minimum wage in accordance with recommendations from the Low-Pay Commission.
- YFG calls on the Government to harmonise the minimum wage requirement for all workers, ending the two-tier system affecting young workers.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a reduction or rebate of up to 50% of employers' PRSI for an initial 12-month period to help relieve businesses against the cost of increasing salaries and supporting employees.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce incentives within the private business sector to let properties to staff, such as taxing rents received by the corporate employer from their employees at 12.5%.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a once-off grant, similar to that currently in operation in Portugal (known locally as the 'MAIS rural employment grant'), whereby employees would be offered up to €10,000 for relocating to rural areas.

Social Protection

- YFG calls on the Government to increase the retirement age to 67 in order to protect the taxpayer from an enormous burden in the future.
- YFG calls on the Government to expand automatic enrolment into pensions for all workers over the age of 21 in order to address Ireland's retirement planning.
- YFG supports the introduction of an indexed system for all social welfare payments, ensuring that rises happen in line with the rate of inflation.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a Carers Support Programme aimed at providing family carers with beneficial care advice from professionals, such as Occupational Therapists, aimed at alleviating the risk of falls.
- YFG calls on the Government to extend free GP care to carers in receipt of carers support grant.
- YFG calls on the Government to develop a pension solution for family carers in recognition of their vital work.
- YFG calls on the Government to undertake an urgent review of Carer's Allowance, the abolition of the means-test or the establishment of a Participation Income for carers. Pending this review, the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance should increase to €325.



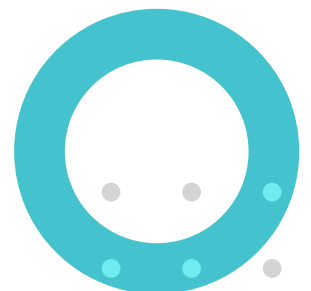
Education

- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a €1,000 reduction in Student Contribution Charge for three years.
- YFG calls on the Government to implement the findings of the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Grant Review aimed at addressing the associated costs of attending third level education in Ireland.
- YFG calls on the Government to introduce a tax credit to employers for taking on student interns, conditional to the intern receiving at least the national minimum wage.
- YFG calls on the Government to waive Gaeltacht Placement Fees imposed on students in teacher-training colleges.
- YFG calls on the Government to provide a living wage to those completing PhDs.
- YFG calls on the Government to fund an increase in the number of public educational psychologists in order to combat the lengthy waiting list for educational assessment.
- YFG calls for an increase of special needs assistants to 20,000 for 2023.
- YFG calls on the Government to fund the provision of free, professional counselling services accessible to all students in the education system.
- YFG calls on the government to invest more in digital education and digital training in schools.
- YFG calls for a minimum wage for apprentices, in order to encourage more people to take up trades.
- Young Fine Gael calls on the expansion of the free schools meals scheme to all schools.
- Young Fine Gael calls on for an increase in pay for PHD students to €20,000 per year.



Justice and Defence

- YFG supports fully funding the Department of Justice's Zero Tolerance action plan, aimed at tackling gender-based violence.
- YFG calls on the Government to adequately fund the National Economic Crime Bureau in order to ensure Ireland's compliance with EU sanctions on Russia.
- YFG calls on the Government to fund an exchange programme with other jurisdictions for Garda Training.
- YFG calls on the Government to ensure a sustainable and victim-centred approach to compensating victims of crime by providing immediate awards to cover immediate and essential treatment outlay such as medical bills and other recommended health supports, as well as introducing a form of recoupment from the perpetrator of the crime.
- YFG supports the Government's commitment to implement the Kelly Report on Civil Administration of Justice. Reducing the cost of litigation and recovering legitimate debts will be of great benefit to small and medium businesses and young entrepreneurs.
- YFG calls on the Government to consider the necessity of expenditure on TV packages such as Netflix and Sky Sports in Irish prisons.
- YFG calls on the government to implement the recommendations of the Defence Commission.
- YFG calls on the Government to upgrade all armed, naval and air service vehicles.
- Young Fine Gael calls for a fund to be put aside to be able to promote the reserve defence forces in schools.



Housing, Planning and Local Government

- YFG calls on the Government, where possible, to reduce customs rates on the importation of key building materials used for the development of residential properties.
- YFG calls on the Government to establish a Mayoral Office for Dublin, and commission county plebiscites on directly-elected mayors in May 2024.
- Young Fine Gael calls for a reform of the help to buy scheme, so that it only covers self builds in order to alleviate demand. We also call for the maximum tax credit to be increased to €40,000.
- Young Fine Gael calls for a reform of the shared equity scheme so it also includes self build houses.
- Young Fine Gael calls on the Government to increase the goal of 18,000 cost rental apartments to 20,000 by 2030.
- Young Fine Gael calls for people to be able to claim back VAT on building materials for self build homes, of 2%.
- Young Fine Gael calls for the rent a room scheme to be expanded so it no longer is regarded as income for susi grants and medical cards.

Health, Disabilities and Social Care

- YFG calls on the Government to use the new VAT Directive to remove VAT levied on period products.
- YFG calls on the Government to remove VAT on condoms and other forms of contraception.
- YFG calls for the removal of VAT on the sale of defibrillators.
- YFG calls on the Government to commission a Healthcare Capacity Review aimed at tackling the recruitment and retention crisis in the HSE to be funded and implemented by Quarter 2 of 2023.
- YFG calls on the Government to abolish all inpatient charges for cancer patients, to the cost of €30 million.
- YFG calls on the Government to provide medical cards to all cancer patients.
- YFG calls on the Government to extend the Domiciliary Care Allowance to 16 and 17 year olds to the cost of €30 million.
- YFG calls on the Government to invest €64 million in Personal Assistance and for €20m for home support services, in line with the Disability Capacity Review.
- YFG calls on the Government to invest €48 million in adult and child therapy services and double the number of clinical therapy graduates in Ireland by 2028.
- YFG calls on the Government to invest an additional €18 million for respite services and €10m for community services.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase spending by €40 million for adult day services and €220 for residential services.
- YFG calls on the Government to spend €26m to fully roll-out Specialist Clinical Rehabilitation Networks in every Community Health Organisation.
- YFG calls on the Government to remove the driver's licence fee for 3 year licences due to age and medical grounds.
- YFG calls on the government to remove car parking charges in public hospitals.
- YFG calls on the Government to review the rate of disability allowances and also investigate the criteria of eligibility.
- YFG calls on Government to implement a statutory home care scheme.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase Mental Health funding and reduce the waiting lists of appointments.
- YFG calls on the Government to include Gestational diabetes under the long term illness card.



Environment, Transport and Climate Action :: :: :: :: :: ::

- YFG calls on the Government to expand the Young Commuters discount on public transport to all those under the age of 25, recognising the impact which rising fuel costs have had on young commuters.
- YFG calls on the Government to increase investments in electric vehicles to encourage young drivers to purchase electric vehicles.
- YFG calls on the Government to Invest in Electric Vans - many business fleets want to go electric but they cannot.
- YFG calls for the Government to invest extensively in train track infrastructure to allow for a faster rail service.
- Young Fine Gael calls on for an fund to be allocated for an increase of the length of platforms at train stations in order to facilitate longer trains

Agriculture, Community and Rural : : : : : :

- Young Fine Gael call for a fund for farmers regarding infrastructure to cuts emissions. ie rubber mats.
- Young Fine Gael calls for the threshold on inheritance tax to be increased to €45,000.
- Young Fine Gael calls on a VAT exemption for sexed semen.
- Young Fine Gael calls for a VAT exemption for farm safety equipment.
- Young Fine Gael calls on on an expansion of the TAMS grant by 100 million, including a 20 million fund, for underpass on roads for livestock.
- Young Fine Gael calls for an VAT exemption on forage lab testing.
- Young Fine Gael calls on for an expansion of the sheep welfare scheme to €12 per ewe.
- Young Fine Gael calls on the Beef Genomics Scheme to be expanded so dairy farmers may apply.

Acknowledgements



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